

Work Task B8:	PIT Tag Procurement
Point of Contact:	Tom Burke, LC-2300 (702) 293-8711
Purpose:	Acquire fish tagging materials for native fishes to be released into the lower Colorado River.
Conservation Measures:	RASU3, RASU6, BONY 3 and BONY5
Long-term Goal:	Increase native fish production capabilities. The two principal fishes to be reared are razorback sucker and bonytail. The goal is to rear and stock over 1.2 million native fish. During the first 10 years of the program, most fish will be tagged with PIT tags to allow for maximum information gathering upon recapture. Such survival and distribution data will be needed for future decision making.
FY05 Estimate:	\$75,000 for the purchase of 20,000 tags, along with repair and replacement of tagging equipment and tag readers.
Project Description:	Fish Augmentation Program requires all fishes to be marked in some way to facilitate identification upon recapture. To assist with survival studies, PIT tags (passive integrated transponder tags) which provide a unique ten-digit alpha-numeric code for each tag are inserted into the fish's body cavity. Each tag contains a coil of wire and a computer chip. A magnetic field will generate enough electricity to download the tag number. Theoretically the tags should last indefinitely. Reclamation and FWS have been using these tags successfully along the lower Colorado River since 1991.
FY04 Accomplishment:	In 2004 15,000 tags were purchased to be on hand during FY05 to tag fish currently being reared.